

AAU Concussion Policy Established

It is the purpose of the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States, Inc. ("AAU"), to promote amateur sports and we wish for our members/participants who participate to do so in a manner that provides reasonable safety for their well-being.

The events and activities that are authorized by AAU are run by Local Host(s), local organizing committee(s), and/or member clubs. Athletic activities involve risks and dangers of injury and accidents may occur sometimes without fault. Available medical assistance may vary from venue to venue. The AAU recognizes that the potential for harm from concussions is a serious matter. While some accidents and even concussions may occur, the basis for the AAU's Concussion Policy is based upon trying to limit the potential harm, which could result from continued participation after such an injury.

We have therefore established this Concussion Policy for and on behalf of the AAU, which is as follows: Where there is reasonable cause to believe that a concussion may have occurred, such participant shall not be allowed to continue his/her participation in an AAU authorized event/activity without a medical release to resume such participation.

The AAU recommends all of its coaches, and other non-athlete members working with youth athletes avail themselves to the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) Head's Up program. Coaches and other club leaders can take a free on-line course that will provide important information in the recommendation and decision-making in handling situations that may involve concussion injuries. This course will only take approximately 30 minutes of your day. The CDC also has downloadable handouts for athletes and their parents.

Forty-three states now have laws governing sports organizations and responsibility relative to concussion. It is important that we educate our members on this matter.

http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online_training.html